

**Northern Virginia Regional Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
October 22, 2003**

Attendees:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR	Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
George Barker, HSANV	Leslie Katz, NVTC
Mary Ann Beall, NoVaMHCA	Edwin H. Kline, Jr.
Ray Bridge, Laurie Mitchell Emp. Center	Rick Lopez, NVMHI
Mark Diorio, NVTC	Cathy Pumphrey, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Deborah Dodge, NWMHC Advisory Board	Dave Redman, FFC-CSB (Board Chair)
Chris Fensterle, Snowden at Fredericksburg	Lou Rosato, NVMHI
Mike Gilmore, Alexandria CSB	Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Amanda Goza, NVMHI	Carol Ulrich, NAMI-Northern Virginia
Wendy Gradison, PRS, Inc.	Leslie Weisman, Arlington CSB
Betsy Greer, Arlington CSB (Board Member)	Rev. Bill Yolton, NoVa NAMI

The notes of September 24, 2003 were accepted, with one correction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Thur welcomed the group and introductions were made.
- Jim Thur indicated that Bob Lassiter, Executive Director of the Loudoun CSB, has announced his retirement effective at the end of the year. Bob is also currently serving as Chair of the Structural Work Group for the Partnership, so a new chair will need to be chosen at the next meeting of that group.
- Jim Thur noted the Executive Summary of the Human Rights Watch's report entitled "**Ill-Equipped:** U.S. Prisons and Offenders with Mental Illness". The full report is available online at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/usa1003/>.
- Mark Diorio announced that the Commissioner has not held his meeting with State employees which was scheduled to happen at the NVMHI, as he reported at the last meeting.
- Carol Ulrich announced that Legal Services of Northern Virginia will be making a presentation at the October 27 NAMI-Northern Virginia Monthly Speaker Forum, and encouraged attendance. Discussion topics will include employment discrimination, tenant-landlord disputes, and social security claims.
- Betsy Greer was happy to announce that Cindy Kemp has been officially appointed Executive Director of the Alexandria CSB. Betsy also thanked Mary Ann Beall for her excellent work at Alexandria Mental Illness Awareness Conference, a replay of which is running on Alexandria's cable system.

UPDATES FROM WORK GROUPS

Mental Health Work Group:

- Wendy Gradison indicated that the Mental Health Work Group worked on the planning for the recovery conference.
- Leslie announced that there are now three sub-groups for Mental Health, and their Phase II tasks were discussed at the meeting:
 - Recovery
 - Forensics
 - Co-Occurring Disorders
- Leslie reported that members are being recruited for that Dual Diagnosis sub-group. Jim Thur indicated that Will Williams (Director of Alcohol and Drug Services) will serve as Fairfax's representative.
- Leslie noted that the hospital bed closure issue was discussed.
- Leslie indicated that the group discussed the challenge of the lack of funding for unmet needs in our communities.
- Jim Thur thanked the Institute for supporting the Mental Health Work Group.

Private Psychiatric Hospitals Work Group:

- Lou Rosato briefly reviewed the elements of the survey of private psychiatric hospitals, which includes questions on personal characteristics, medical problems, and levels of treatment. Lou indicated that he has now received surveys from all the hospitals that were surveyed, and the data should be available in November. Jim Thur noted his appreciation of the cooperation from the private hospitals in submitting this data.
- Jim Thur indicated that the Private Psychiatric Hospitals Work Group meeting of September 17 focused largely on the potential changes in regional beds and developing a work plan.

MR/MI Work Group:

- Mark Diorio reported that the MR/MI Work Group met on October 5 and November 5. Topics of discussion included the development of a list of priorities from the group's report, and the establishment of a Levels of Treatment subcommittee.
- Mark indicated that the Partnership report is being widely shared around the State, and is being used as model for discussion.

State Restructuring Policy Advisory Committee:

- Jim Thur indicated that the group met on October 17, but Commissioner Reinhard was not present. Deputy Commissioner Ray Ratke addressed the group and praised the work being done in each region. There were reports from the Specialty Population Subgroups:
 - Child and Adolescent – This group has a comprehensive plan and recommendations, including how they link with CSA, which will be posted on the

DMHMRSAS website. Mark Diorio noted that this group was the only one to include estimates of dollar amounts needed to fund items in their report. It is unclear if there is a Northern Virginia representative on this group.

- Geropsych – These state-level activities are just getting underway.
- Forensics – There is some concern that NGRI issues are not being directly addressed yet.
- MR/MI – Jim indicated that there was a terrific report from Northern Virginia, and noted the extensive contributions of Mark Diorio. Jim noted that the MR vendor community is voicing their concern about the inadequacy of Medicaid rates, and might be taking a position of not wanting additional Waiver slots until there is a rate increase.
- SA – There was a presentation on the SA-related issues, but work has yet to begin on this topic statewide. It is also unclear if there is a Northern Virginia representative on this group.

Ray Bridge suggested there should be a sub-group on Recovery.

- Jim indicated that the regional reports were not given due to time shortages.
- Jim referenced a document entitled “Recommendations by the Regional Partnerships: Key Themes” which was handed out at the meeting. Wendy Gradison noted that employment is not included on the list and the group agreed that it should be added. Jim indicated that these materials are to be incorporated into the State Comprehensive Plan by November 1.
- Jim indicated that Regional Forums are to be scheduled around the State in November, but no dates or locations have been identified yet.
- Jim reported that the Stakeholder Open Forum was held, but attendance was low.
- Jim noted that the next State Restructuring Policy Advisory Committee meeting will be held in January.

REVIEW OF SUMMARY POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Jim Thur indicated that this PowerPoint document was designed to be something that other group members could use in making presentations to any audience regarding the NVRPPP. He asked that members review the document and provide feedback; the document will be posted on the Partnership website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/csb/region/partnershipmain.htm>). Jim noted that the recommendations listed on pages 27-28 were reviewed at the September Steering Committee meeting, but are not specifically listed within the Partnership report.

- Sharon Jones agreed to provide updated data for page 18 (Forensic and NGRI Hospitalizations).
- Mary Ann Beall asked that the problem of low rates of SSI/SSDI applications, even though consumers may be eligible. Jim indicated that this item is mentioned on page 14 of the document.

- The group expressed an interest in including a statement describing what can happen to people if these needed services are not delivered. Jim indicated that he will add a page of background information to be included between pages 14 and 15, and then will recirculate the document and post the amended version on the website.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL WORK PLAN

Jim Thur briefly reviewed the schedule included in the Regional Work Plan, and noted that the MR/MI Work Group will be added to the document.

REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

The group reviewed and made revisions to the Committee membership list.

UPDATE ON DAD REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Sharon Jones reported that work is being done to finalize the DAD agreement which shifts the fiscal agent responsibility from the Institute to the Fairfax CSB. The DAD Steering Committee is also in the process of deciding how unspent funds will be used, and is prioritizing regional needs. Jim Thur added that December 1 is the probable date that the fiscal agent change will be implemented.

NEXT MEETING

The next Steering Committee meeting was set for December 3 at 12:30 p.m.

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